



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5651

February Session, 2000

***An Act Concerning The Department Of Mental Retardation
Waiting List.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall
2 ensure that all programs and services administered or provided by the
3 Department of Mental Retardation, including, but not limited to, case
4 management and technical assistance, furnish supports to clients based
5 on the principles of self-determination and follow a person-centered
6 planning process.

7 (b) In carrying out the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
8 the commissioner shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an ongoing
9 assessment of services required by individuals both on, and not yet on,
10 the waiting list. Any proposal or plan with respect to such assessment
11 of services and meeting the needs of such individuals shall be
12 formulated by the commissioner in accordance with the principles set
13 forth in subsection (a) of this section.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) The Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall
15 provide the following services in each state mental retardation region
16 operated by the Department of Mental Retardation: (1) Recreational
17 therapists to provide recreational services to clients; (2) specialized
18 services, including medical, dental, physical therapy and other forms
19 of special therapy; and (3) outreach workers to contact the minority

20 population within the region.

21 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 17a-218 of the general statutes is
22 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

23 (d) The commissioner may provide, within available appropriations,
24 respite care services which may be administered directly by the
25 department, or through contracts for services with providers of such
26 services, or by means of direct subsidy to parents of mentally retarded
27 persons to enable them to purchase such services. Any respite care
28 services provided under this subsection shall be furnished on a seven
29 day per week basis.

PH Committee Vote: Yea 22 Nay 0 JFS